

IT'S WANDERERS v. 'KEEPER JAMES AND SEARLE HITS A HAT-TRICK

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Corinthian Casuals 0

ONE MAN — Corinthian Casuals' uncompromising goalkeeper, Paul James — stood between Wycombe Wanderers and double figures at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening.

But nothing could stop Keith Searle from completing the hat-trick he had so narrowly missed on numerous occasions throughout the second half, even though it was not until two minutes from full time that he finally managed a third goal.

All that was ever in question was, how many for Wanderers? At 2-0 after 32 minutes they could have expected more, and would have had them too, but for James' stubborn refusal to give anything away, plus their own incredible wastage of scoring chances.

UNDERSTUDY

The Casuals' 'keeper, understudy last season to Chris Swain (now with Wealdstone), played unexpectedly at Wycombe. His ties with cricket were thought to keep him out of consideration for selection until the end of September.

In the end however, Wanderers' supporters were rebelling the match, Wycombe v. James. Without him, the visitors had nothing worth mentioning to trouble a Wanderers' side welcoming back skipper, John Delaney, and introducing Scottish International full back, Ian MacLean for his competitive debut with the club.

Another happy sight was the return, via the substitutes' bench, of Tony Horseman, whose thumb injury received in the opening game versus Walthamstow had kept him out ever since.

After missing an absolute sitter, he proceeded to assist Searle with the final scoring move, and generally seemed to settle in well.

But then he had every opportunity to do just that. Play was ceaselessly inside the Casuals' half, and more often than not, somewhere around their 'box', where defensively speaking the visitors didn't utter a word.

NO CHAT

Up front they were even less talkative to the point of being utterly speechless, while Wanderers' goalkeeper, Kevin O'Brien, yawned away the time with a distant view of the activity raging elsewhere.

So now we know how bad the visitors' were, let's make one thing crystal clear. Collectively,

Wycombe used up their full share of missed opportunities from now until Christmas, and probably further.

Certainly they made James' job half as easy again as it should have been; and that detracts nothing from his fine positional play.

Most people anticipated two points and a banquet for Wanderers on Tuesday. And sure enough Casuals underwent the kind of vivisection never before seen outside a laboratory.

After eight minutes, Geoff Anthony moved with possession onto the right and put Barry Baker through for the first shot of the night which curled just high of the bar.

WILD HEADER

Three minutes later, James parried Larry Pritchard's effort and another three minutes passed before Pritchard headed over wildly from Searle's cross. Then Searle lashed out to shoot ridiculously high when he should have made sure from Anthony's pass.

But the Wycombe number nine made amends in the 28th minute, running in off the left to drive in the opening score after the ball had been put across the goalmouth.

Four minutes later, Searle made it 2-0 with another fine goal, created by a well placed through ball round a defender from Baker.

A glancing header nearly gave Searle his trio before the interval, but it hit the crossbar instead and bounced to safety seconds from the interval while.

On play, Wanderers won the second half by unteem to nil. On paper though it was 1-0 and that goal came only in the dying minutes.

ON THE SLIDE

Pritchard started it all with a sliding shot in the 46th minute from Bernie Bremer's inside pass. Unfortunately he slid it feet the wrong side of the post.

James, never afraid to risk advancing off his line, found this tactic paid handsomely, and in the 50th minute, he blockbusted another Searle volley.

Full back, Wildey almost put through his own net with a back pass that turned into a full scale shot, and Wanderers, with Horseman on for Bremer, entered mid-period still seeking goal number three.

Charlie Gale, supporting the

attack from a forward position on the left — and sometimes even the right — gave Pritchard the chance of a spectacular flying header, which James had covered. And Keith Blunt added to the growing list of missed-sitters, wasting Pritchard's good work.

Casuals, desperately awaiting their first goal of the season, brought on Beschizza for Payne, and sat back to take some more punishment. Searle found James in the way, Horseman though had the goal at his mercy only to blunder at the vital moment, and Anthony's drive was stopped at point blank range as the crowd rose to James' courage and belief.

POSITIONAL MASTERY

The 'keeper proved his positional mastery by taking out another effort from Wycombe's Welshman, and as play entered the final five minutes, he countered attempts in turn from Blunt and Horseman.

Finally, however, in the 88th minute, Horseman set Searle up for goal number three, ironically following one of the very few sorties into Wycombe's half made by whatever managed to develop of the visitors' attack.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: K. O'Brien, I. MacLean, G. Gale, E. Powell, J. Delaney, K. Blunt, G. Anthony, B. Baker, K. Searle, L. Pritchard, B. Bremer (sub: A. Horseman, 65th minute).

CORINTHIAN CASUALS: P. James, D. Wildey, R. Cairns, A. Wakeling, T. Soultis, S. Hamer, H. Alexander, S. Duncombe, E. Elias, P. Dick, S. Payne (sub: L. Beschizza, 70th minute).
Referee: Mr. D. R. Smith (Enfield).

Attendance: 2,194.

Gate receipts: £367 2s.

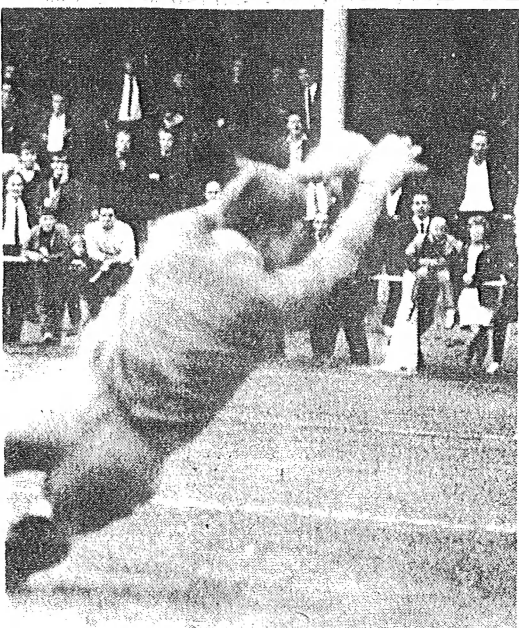
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WANDERERS AWAIT F.A. DECISION

WYCOMBE WANDERERS are still awaiting F.A. release for their latest signing from University football, defender Paul Fuschillo, who has been tied down by the 50 mile limit ruling for amateur players.

Fuschillo's case is up before the same Hardship Committee that released Scottish full-back, Ian MacLean last week.

Although living in London now, his previous team — Newcastle University — is of course outside the 50 mile boundary drawn round Wycombe.



At 2-0, Keith Searle opens the scoring against the Casuals.